

1 said first set of digital data comprising a plurality of regular displayable items, a
2 plurality of formatting codes, a plurality of special displayable terms, a first non-
3 displayable symbol, a plurality of linkage references, and a second non-displayable
4 symbol, said special displayable terms being highlighted when displayed by said display
5 device, said first non-displayable symbol being used by said processing device for
6 recognizing said displayable terms, said second non-displayable symbol being used by said
7 processing device for recognizing said plurality of linkage references, each of said plurality
8 of linkage references being used for retrieving a portion of said second set of digital data,
9 and each of said plurality of special displayable terms being associated with one of said
10 plurality of linkage references;

11 said means for communicating comprising means for [accepting] receiving at least
12 one of said linkage references transmitted by at least one of said sites using said bi-
13 directional channel;
14 searching, by said database, for a portion of said second set of digital data
15 referenced by said at least one linkage reference; and
16 sending, by said database, said portion to said at least one site via said bi-
17 directional channel.

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19 In claim 3, line 1, please replace the number "3" with the number 1--.

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21 Claim 8 (Once Amended). An information distribution system for distributing
22 digital data to be displayed in a plurality of remote sites each having a processing device
23 and a display device, comprising:

1 a plurality of portable read-only storage devices each encoded with a first set of
2 digital data, said storage devices being distributed to said plurality of remote sites;
3 a database containing a second set of digital data and means for remotely
4 communicating with said sites using a bi-directional channel;
5 said first set of digital data comprising a plurality of regular displayable items, a
6 plurality of formatting codes, a plurality of special displayable terms, a first non-
7 displayable symbol, a plurality of linkage references, and a second non-displayable
8 symbol, said special displayable terms being highlighted when displayed by said display
9 device, said first non-displayable symbol being used by said processing device for
10 recognizing said displayable terms, said second non-displayable symbol being used by said
11 processing device for recognizing said plurality of linkage references, each of said plurality
12 of linkage references being used for retrieving a portion of said second set of digital data,
13 and each of said plurality of special displayable terms being associated with one of said
14 plurality of linkage references;
15 said means for communicating comprising means for [accepting] receiving at least
16 one of said linkage references delivered by at least one of said sites; and
17 means in said database for searching for a portion of said second set of digital data
18 referenced by said at least one linkage reference and for sending said portion to said at
19 least one site via said bi-directional channel.

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21 Claim 17 (Once Amended). A method for distributing digital data via a bi-
22 directional channel to a plurality of remote sites each having a processing device, a
23 nonvolatile memory, and a display device, comprising:

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1 generating a first set of digital data;
2 encoding each of a plurality of portable read-only storage devices with said first set
3 of digital data;
4 distributing said plurality of storage devices to said plurality of remote sites;
5 providing a database containing a second set of digital data, said database
6 accessible by said plurality of remote sites via said bi-directional channel;
7 said first set of digital data comprising a set of displayable data and at least one
8 linkage reference associated with said set of displayable data, said set of displayable data
9 transferable to said nonvolatile memory and displayable on said display device, said
10 linkage reference transferable to said nonvolatile memory but not displayable on said
11 display device, said linkage reference being transmitted to said database base via said bi-
12 directional channel when said set of displayable data is selected by a user;
13 said database comprising means for [accepting] receiving said linkage reference
14 originated from at least one of said plurality of sites;
15 searching, by said database, for a portion of said second set of digital data
16 referenced by said linkage reference; and
17 sending, by said database, said portion to said at least one site via said bi-
18 directional channel.

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20 Claim 24 (Once Amended). An information distribution system for distributing
21 digital data via a bi-direction channel to a plurality of remote sites each having a
22 processing device, a nonvolatile memory, and a display device, comprising:

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1 a plurality of portable read-only storage devices each encoded with a first set of
2 digital data, said storage devices being distributed to said plurality of remote sites;
3 a database containing a second set of digital data and means for remotely
4 communicating with said sites using said bi-directional channel;
5 said first set of digital data comprising a set of displayable data and at least one
6 linkage reference associated with said set of displayable data, said set of displayable data
7 transferable to said nonvolatile memory and displayable on said display device, said
8 linkage reference transferable to said nonvolatile memory but not displayable on said
9 display device, said linkage reference being transmitted to said database base via said bi-
10 directional channel when said set of displayable data is selected by a user;
11 said means for communicating comprising means for [accepting] receiving said at
12 least one linkage reference delivered by at least one of said plurality of sites; and
13 means in said database for searching for a portion of said second set of digital data
14 referenced by said at least one linkage reference and for sending said portion to said at
15 least one site via said bi-directional channel.

16
17 [Please add the following new claims:]

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19 31. A method for distributing a first set of digital data stored in a database to a
20 remote site having a display device, comprising:
21 providing said remote site with a portable read-only storage device encoded with a
22 second set of digital data;

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1 providing said remote site with a processing device comprising a nonvolatile
2 memory unit for storing at least a portion of said second set of digital data, said portion
3 comprising a first set of displayable data, a second set of displayable data, and a non-
4 displayable linkage reference associated with said second set of displayable data and said
5 first set of digital data; and

6 receiving, at said remote site and subsequent to both of said providing steps, said
7 first set of digital data, said receiving step comprising:

8 allowing a user to select said second set of displayable data;

9 subsequent to said selection, extracting said linkage reference; and

10 transmitting said extracted linkage reference to said database through a bi-
11 directional channel; and

12 receiving said first set of digital data from said database through said bi-
13 directional channel.

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15 32. The method of claim ~~31~~ wherein said storage devices are CDROMs.

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17 33. The method of claim ~~31~~ wherein said storage devices are optically encoded
18 storage devices.

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20 34. The method of claim ~~31~~ wherein said second set of digital data further
21 comprises video data.

1 35. The method of claim ~~31~~ wherein said second set of digital data further
2 comprises a computer game.

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4 36. The method of claim ~~1~~ wherein said first set of digital data further
5 comprises video data.

6
7 37. The method of claim ~~1~~ wherein said first set of digital data further
8 comprises a computer game.

9
10 38. The method of claim ~~8~~ wherein said first set of digital data further
11 comprises video data.

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13 39. The method of claim ~~8~~ wherein said first set of digital data further
14 comprises a computer game.

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16 40. The method of claim ~~15~~ wherein said first set of digital data further
17 comprises video data.

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19 41. The method of claim ~~15~~ wherein said first set of digital data further
20 comprises a computer game.

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22 42. The method of claim ~~17~~ wherein said first set of digital data further
23 comprises video data.

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43. The method of claim ~~17~~ wherein said first set of digital data further comprises a computer game.

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44. The method of claim ~~24~~ wherein said first set of digital data further comprises video data.

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45. The method of claim ~~24~~ wherein said first set of digital data further comprises a computer game.

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